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Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously amended) A communication system for accessing and managing a database, comprising:
  - a portable wireless communication appliance;
  - a remote device with access to the database, the database residing remote to the portable wireless communication appliance; and
  - a cache device configured to communicate wirelessly with the portable wireless communication appliance and to communicate with the remote device, the cache device storing a copy of a predetermined portion of the database, wherein the portable wireless communication appliance operates on the database via the cache device, in one of a mode connected to the remote device or a mode unconnected to the remote device, the mode being dependent on the accessibility of the remote device; and wherein the remote device is configured to both send and retrieve database updates to and from the portable wireless communication appliance via the cache device.
2. (original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the portable wireless communication appliance comprises one of a radiotelephone, a personal digital assistant, or a portable computer.
3. (original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the remote device comprises a personal computer, a desktop computer, or a server device connected to a network.
4. (original) The communication system of claim 1 wherein the cache device comprises:
  - a storage device for storing the copy of the portion of the database;
  - a data processor operative to execute preprogrammed instructions and managing the copy of the portion of the database in the storage device; and
  - a wireless communication device operative to communicate with the portable wireless communication device.

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5. (previously amended) A method of accessing and managing a database accessible by a remote device, the method comprising:

establishing a wireless communication link between a portable wireless communication appliance and a cache device storing a predetermined portion of the database;

sending a remote-device discovery inquiry by way of the wireless communication link;

determining if the remote device is available for communication with the cache device;

accessing the copy of the portion of the database stored in the cache device when the remote device is not available; and

accessing the database accessible by the remote device via the cache device when the remote device is available.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising setting cache-device preferences when the remote device is available, wherein cache-device preferences comprise user preferences and configuration settings.

8. (original) The method of claim 5 further comprising monitoring the availability of the remote device.

9. (previously amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising synchronizing the copy of the portion of the database with the database according to the cache-device preferences prior to the unavailability of the remote device.

10. (previously amended) A computer program product embodied on a tangible storage medium, the program comprising executable instructions that enable a system to:

establish a wireless communication link between a portable wireless communication appliance and a cache device storing a predetermined portion of a database;

send a remote-device discovery inquiry by way of the wireless communication link;

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determine if a remote device having access to the database is available for communication with the cache device;

access the copy of the portion of the database stored in the cache device when the remote device is not available; and

access the database via the cache device when the remote device is available.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising executable instructions to set cache-device preferences when the remote device is available.

13. (original) The computer program product of claim 12 further comprising executable instructions to monitor the availability of the remote device.

14. (original) The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising executable instructions to synchronize the copy of the portion of the database with the database according to the cache-device preferences prior to the unavailability of the remote device.

15. (previously amended) A method comprising:  
establishing a wireless communication link between a portable wireless communication appliance and a cache device;

sending a remote-device discovery inquiry by way of the wireless communication link;

determining if a remote device is available for communication with the cache device;

setting cache-device preferences when the remote device is available;

monitoring the availability of the remote device; and

synchronizing a copy of a predetermined portion of a database stored in the cache device with the database communicatively coupled to the remote device according to the cache-device preferences prior to the unavailability of the remote device.

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16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising accessing the copy of the portion of the database stored in the cache device when the remote device is not available.

17. (previously added) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the cache device has a storage capacity larger than the portable wireless communication appliance.

18. (previously added) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the cache device is configured to receive the copy of a predetermined portion of the database from the portable wireless communication appliance for storing when the remote device is unavailable.

19. (previously added) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the cache device is configured to send the copy of a predetermined portion of the database to the remote device, for storing, when the remote device becomes available.

20. (previously added) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the cache device is configured to communicate with the remote device to update the database with the copy of a predetermined portion of the database, when the portable wireless communication appliance is no longer in communication with the cache device.